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fastened together by bands of twined work, usually three rows wide. The twining material is unsplit *vahy* vine. The traps have a conical entrance way, made from pointed slips of bamboo. On one side there is an aperture opened and closed by sliding slips of bamboo into the first row of twining (Fig. 3, e, g).

The fish scoops are conical, 2 to 3 feet across the mouth and 3 to 5 feet long. They are made from long, slender, somewhat flexible splints taken from the midrib of the raffia palm. At intervals of 3 or 4 inches these are fastened together by single rows of twined raffia fiber running at right angles to their length. The mouth of the scoop is held open by a hoop of roughly plaited vines. When not in use, this hoop is removed and the scoop rolled up laterally (Fig. 3, a).

The hanging platforms are made with the same materials and technique as the scoops just described. They are rectangular, reinforced with splints of bamboo at the edge, and are used in household sacrifices and for smoking fish (Fig. 3, c).

The Tanala also make a few trays or baskets from sections of large pandanus leaves. The heavy midrib is pared thin and the ends and sides of the section bent upward. The ends are then folded and sewn together (Fig. 6, g). Small baskets of this type are sometimes made of the sheaths of the giant bamboo, which are similarly folded and sewn.

There seems to be little or no use of bark containers. Fish traps are sometimes made from rolls of bark held in position by bands of twisted vine (Fig. 3, f).

MANUFACTURE OF BARK CLOTH

The Tanala Menabe claim that in the earliest times their clothing was made exclusively of beaten bark, called *fanto*. They have now learned how to weave and with this and the introduction of European cloth *fanto* has become obsolete. I never saw it in use, but specimens were made for me by a few of the older men, who still remember the process.

Fanto is made from the bark of the *voara* tree. When a wide piece is desired, trees up to a foot in diameter are used. The hard outer bark is scraped away on the tree until the soft inner bark is exposed. This is then detached by ringing the tree above and below and making a single vertical cut. The bark is laid in the sun until nearly dry, then beaten. The beater (*odintana*) is shaped like a European mallet, with a head of hard wood and an inserted handle

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287 of softer wood (Fig. 14, a). Both sides of the head are covered with cross-hatching. The anvil is a rectangular piece of wood about 8 inches wide, 6 inches thick, and 16 to 18 inches long, with a smooth, flat top.

After the first beating, the bark is laid on the earth in a damp, shady place and left for three or four days. It absorbs moisture and when it has become damp and flexible it is beaten a second time. The material is then ready for use. It is not washed at any stage of the manufacture. The beating expands the bark to, at most, three times its original width. In making smocks, blankets, etc., these strips are sewn together with fiber thread.

The finished bark cloth is reddish brown in color, fading to a pinkish tan on exposure to the sun. It is rather stiff and thicker than any Oceanic bark cloth. It plainly shows the marks of the beater (Fig. 14, b). Apparently it is never painted or otherwise decorated.

MANUFACTURE OF CLOTH

286 173 According to their own traditions the Tanala were originally ignorant of weaving. The Ikongo and other southern Tanala dressed in mats, like the southeast coast tribes, and still do so except where they have obtained cloth through trade. The Menabe dressed in bark cloth, but adopted weaving shortly before the beginning of the historic period and now dress entirely in cloth. The art entered the Menabe territory from two directions. Raffia weaving was learned from the neighboring Betsimisaraka tribe and gradually spread to all the gentes. *Hajotra* weaving, on the other hand, was brought into the area by the Zafimaniry when they fled from the plateau. It has spread little, if at all, among the other gentes, although the neighbors of the Zafimaniry purchase and use the finished product.

286 The preparation of raffia has been described under Forest Products. When it is to be manufactured into cloth, it is first shredded into thin filaments. This is done by tying one end of a hank to a post and combing it with an iron comb. These combs usually have four sets of teeth, used for shredding to different sizes (Fig. 14, d). After shredding the filaments are tied end to end to form a continuous thread, the ends of the knots being cut as short as possible with a small iron knife. The tying is done on a frame, two types being used. One of these consists of a raffia midrib through one end of which a stick is thrust at right angles while a second stick is driven into the upper surface near the other end. The whole form is reminiscent of a cross-bow (Fig. 14, e). The thread is passed over one

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FIG. 14. Bark Cloth and Raffia Weaving. a, Bark Cloth Beater; b, Texture of Bark Cloth; c, Twist of Raffia; d, Comb for Shredding Raffia; e, f, Frames for Laying Raffia Chain for Weaving; g, Bone Bodkin.